

# Bright Futures Community Service Guidelines

## **Document Community Service Hours**

Students must use the Verification of Community Service form provided by Duval County Public Schools to document all volunteer hours for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility.

- Students will itemize each date of volunteer service, even if the hours served were to work on one project. Date of service must include month, day, and year, as indicated in the Verification of Community Service form. Hours approved cannot exceed 12 hours per day without PRIOR School Counselor approval.
- Each date of service requires a Verifier's Signature. Written verification by way of an original letter written on organizational letterhead is acceptable with original signature IF the letter includes dates of service, total hours, and itemization of service performed by date. Students may attach such letter to the completed verification form. Students may write "see attached" in place of verifier's signature.
- Each community service entry must be complete and legible. This is a permanent record and Duval County Public Schools will keep the student's original document(s) with signature(s). Students should make a copy of all records prior to submitting them to the school counseling office.

## **Hours Not Acceptable for Community Service**

- Family related activities or service to family members
- Hours compensated financially
- Hours tied to school activities where grades, extra credit or awards are involved (including athletics)
- Court adjudicated service hours
- Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation. Some activities sponsored by these organizations that benefit the community **may be** acceptable for Bright Futures (eg: working in a soup kitchen, community cleanup events, community health fairs, community dances or festivals, clerical support for social service activities)
- Volunteer work for the purpose of promoting a particular religious or political point of view
- Donations (eg: Locks of Love, blood)
- Hosting or housing a foreign exchange student

## **Submit Your Documentation of Hours to Your School Counselor**

**All Florida Bright Futures Community Service hours must be approved by a DCPS school counselor.**

- Students may begin earning Florida Bright Futures community service hours in the summer prior to entry into grade nine.
- Each student must complete and submit for approval by his/her school counselor all Florida Bright Futures community service hours prior to the student's graduation date. Florida Bright Futures will not allow students to submit community service hours after graduation.
- An adult must verify all volunteer hours. Verifiers may not be a relative or step family member of the volunteer.
- Approved community service documentation will be placed into the student's cumulative folder. Students should make copies of all documentation prior to submitting it to the school counseling office.

<b>Community Service Hour Requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship</b>	
Florida Academic Scholars	100
Florida Medallion Scholars	75
Gold Seal Vocational Scholars	30